



DEAN OF STUDENTS

Dear Parents,

A great deal of media attention has focused on the novel H1N1 influenza (formerly called "swine flu") since it was first identified in April 2009. As we prepare for the upcoming fall semester, we at Charleston Southern University want parents to know that this summer we have been actively developing programs and plans in the event of an outbreak and are already preparing for flu season. We also are asking for your help in ensuring that our students arrive and stay healthy on our campus.

The Student Life Department has begun an active education program to improve awareness on campus of the spread of infectious illness such as novel H1N1 flu. The most important things students can do to prevent the spread of infection is to wash their hands often, avoid sharing drinks and food, cover sneezes and coughs with a tissue or shirt fabric, stay home when ill, and get their influenza vaccine. Your help in reinforcing these health tips with your son or daughter will help greatly in this educational effort.

You also can help by strongly encouraging your son or daughter to get vaccinated for flu. Although college-aged students have not traditionally been in an age group for which annual flu vaccinations were recommended, this year the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is recommending that college students get vaccinated. There are several walk-in clinics near the campus who will be offering the flu vaccine.

The second type of vaccine specifically targets the H1N1 influenza. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention predicts this vaccine will be available sometime in November or December and will most likely consist of two injections, given one month apart. Once the vaccine is available, DHEC has agreed to provide the vaccinations on-campus for students who desire to do so. We encourage every student to consider being vaccinated for H1N1 flu, in addition to the regular flu vaccination.

Please reinforce to your son or daughter the importance of these infection prevention efforts. We are also urging parents to send students to school with a thermometer so that they are equipped to monitor their own health.

Available on the Parent Page of our website are some important links to provide you with additional information to help your son or daughter stay healthy. We will provide you with additional information regarding of the H1N1 Flu vaccine as it becomes available.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at (843) 863-8008 or by email at rratliff@csuniv.edu.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Ratliff, Ed.D.

Dean of Students

Promoting Academic Excellence in a Christian Environment